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November 2005

CLIMATE CHANGE

Kyoto Protocol: Assessing the Status of Efforts to Reduce Greenhouse Gases.

Dr. Harlan L. Watson, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs

Hearing before the Committee on Environment and Public Works, United States Senate
Washington, DC, October 5, 2005

<http://www.state.gov/g/oes/rls/rm/54306.htm>

In testimony before the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, Harlan Watson, senior climate negotiator for the State Department's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, disputed allegations that the administration is indifferent to the consequences of warming temperatures. The hearing, called by Senate Environment and Public Works Chairman Inhofe, was part of a periodic review of efforts here and abroad to stem the discharge of greenhouse gases -- mainly from motor vehicles, power plants and other industrial sources.

Economic Opportunity in Addressing Global Warming: The Silver Lining for North Carolina in a Lower Carbon Economy.

North Carolina Climate Stewardship Task Force, 27 September 2005

http://www.environmentaldefense.org/documents/4576_nccarbonmarket.pdf?CFID=28733747&CFTOKEN=67413912

According to this report, North Carolina can generate tens of thousands of jobs by preparing for an economy that will rely more on alternate energy than fossil fuels. The report's release comes a day after Gov. Mike Easley signed a law creating a 32-member state task force to examine the impact of greenhouse gases on North Carolina and possibly to propose a pollution reduction goal.

Climate Change: Federal Reports on Climate Change Funding Should Be Clearer and More Complete.

U.S.GAO, August 25, 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-461>

Federal funding for climate change increased from \$2.4 billion in 1993 to \$5.1 billion in 2004 (116 percent), as reported by OMB, or from \$3.3 billion to \$5.1 billion (55 percent) after adjusting for inflation. During this period, inflation adjusted funding increased for technology and science, but decreased for international assistance. The share for technology increased (36 to 56 percent), while the shares for science and international assistance decreased (56 to 39 percent and 9 to 5 percent, respectively). However, it is unclear whether funding changed as much as reported because modifications in the format and content of OMB reports limit the comparability of funding data over time.

ENERGY

ACEEE's 3rd National Scorecard on Utility and Public Benefits Energy Efficiency Programs: A National Review and Update of State-Level Activity.

Dan York and Marty Kushler, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, October 2005

<http://aceee.org/pubs/u054.pdf>

“Despite observed growth in overall nationwide spending and associated electric energy efficiency program activity, there are still great disparities among states. The top ten states in terms of spending per capita account for 39% of the total nationwide spending on energy efficiency programs. The top twenty states by this measure account for 90% of nationwide spending.”

Oil Shockwave. Oil Crisis Executive Simulation.

Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) and the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP), September 2005

<http://www.energycommission.org/ewebeditpro/items/O82F6801.pdf>

Amid high global oil and U.S. gasoline prices, a report released by Securing America's Future Energy (SAFE) and the National Commission on Energy Policy (NCEP) demonstrates that the United States is vulnerable to much more severe oil shocks should even relatively small amounts of oil be withdrawn from the global market due to terrorism, political unrest or additional natural disasters.

BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Promise of Biotechnology.

Electronic Journal of the US Department of State, October 2005

<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/1005/ijee/ijee1005.htm>

This issue explores some of the most promising applications of biotechnology, from microorganisms engineered to produce hydrogen gas from organic waste and bacteria engineered to break down environmental pollutants, to crops that add vitamins to what we eat and novel drugs for treating human diseases such as Alzheimer's and diabetes.

NUCLEAR

Nuclear Cleanup: Preliminary Results of the Review of the Department of Energy's Rocky Flats Closure Projects.

U.S.GAO, September 2005

<http://www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-05-1044R>

Cleanup of the site, which commenced in 1996, has been a monumental undertaking. The cleanup is being conducted under the Rocky Flats Cleanup Agreement, which is the legally binding agreement that provides the framework for the cleanup effort.

WATER

Addressing our Global Water Future.

Center for Strategic and International Studies and Sandia National Laboratories, September 2005

http://www.csis.org/gsi/media/csis/pubs/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28&Itemid=72

This report outlines the major conclusions of the Global Water Futures project. Jointly conducted by the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Sandia National Laboratories, the project's goal was to generate fresh thinking and concrete policy recommendations on how the United States can better address future global water challenges and more efficiently leverage and deploy available technologies.

FAUNA-FLORA

Coral Reef Resilience and Resistance to Bleaching.

Gabriel D. Grimsditch & Rodney V. Salm, World Conservation Union, 25 October 2005

http://www.iucn.org/themes/marine/pdf/coral_reef_resilience_gg-rs.pdf

Up to half of the world's coral reefs may be lost within the next 40 years unless urgent measures are taken to protect them against the paramount threat of climate change, warns this report released by the World Conservation Union.

Bottomfish Fishing in the Northwestern Hawai'ian Islands. Is it Ecologically Sustainable?

Dennis Heinemann, Hannah Gillelan, Lance Morgan, Marine Conservation Biology Institute, October 2005

http://www.mcbi.org/marineprotected/NWHI_Bottomfish.pdf

The Northwestern Hawai'ian Islands is one of the most remote and least impacted coral reef ecosystems in the world. The health of this ecosystem is very good, but not without

problems. Using the best available data and the latest scientific methodologies, the authors found that fishing for bottomfish in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands is unsustainable.

POLLUTANTS

Gulf Coast Reconstruction: The Biggest “Brownfield”.

Lenny Siegel, Center for Public Environmental Oversight, October 2005

<http://www.cpeo.org/brownfields/BiggestBrownfield.pdf>

“The recovery of Gulf Coast areas devastated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita, in the late summer of 2005, will be the largest reconstruction project in U.S. history. Evidence thus far shows that many impacted areas, particularly in New Orleans, are contaminated. Pollutants include industrial chemicals, petroleum and other hazardous substances from cars and other common products, and biological wastes. Thus, the Louisiana-Mississippi Gulf Coast has become the nation’s largest Brownfield.”

The Right Start. The Need To Eliminate Toxic Chemicals From Baby Products.

US PIRG, October 2005

<http://uspirg.org/reports/therightstart.pdf>

Not all products marketed for children and babies are completely safe for their use. Many contain toxic chemicals that may have detrimental health impacts for children exposed during critical stages of development.